

Amendments to the Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) A wooden member fabrication method comprising the sequential steps of:

providing a wooden member original with a long form and including a hole inside ~~thereinside~~ which extends in a length direction, the wooden member including a cross-section perpendicular to the length direction which is substantially a rectangle having corner portions; of which chamfering said corner portions of the wooden member such that said wooden member has a polygonal cross-section for avoiding breakage of the wooden member during a compression deforming step, have been chamfered; and

compression-deforming the chamfered wooden member original in directions toward a center of the cross-section, for making an outer periphery of the wooden member original an arcuate surface.

2. (Original) The wooden member fabrication method of claim 1, wherein the wooden member original includes thicknesses in the cross-section which are constrained to a predetermined range.

3. (Original) The wooden member fabrication method of claim 1, wherein the step of providing the wooden member original comprises the step of chamfering the corner portions of the cross-section for constraining thicknesses of the wooden member original to a predetermined range.

4. (Original) The wooden member fabrication method of claim 1, wherein the wooden member original is structured by two segments which are divided by a plane along the length direction, a channel being formed at the plane of division of each segment, which channel extends in the length direction, for forming the hole.

5. (Original) The wooden member fabrication method of claim 1, wherein a core is disposed in the hole.

6. (Original) The wooden member fabrication method of claim 1, wherein in the cross-section, angles at portions which are chamfered are at least 120° and at most 150°.
7. (Original) The wooden member fabrication method of claim 1, wherein in the cross-section, a thickness dimension of a largest portion is at most 1.85 times a thickness dimension of a smallest portion.
8. (Original) The wooden member fabrication method of claim 1, wherein the wooden member original includes a shape which is curved in the length direction.
9. (Original) The wooden member fabrication method of claim 1, wherein the wooden member original is to be used for covering a steering wheel of a vehicle.
10. (Original) The wooden member fabrication method of claim 1 wherein the thicknesses are defined by dimensions of thickness of the wooden member original along straight lines from a substantial center of the cross-section toward any location at the outer periphery of the cross-section.
11. (Currently Amended) A wooden member fabrication method comprising the sequential steps of:
 - providing a wooden member original with a long form and including a substantially rectangular cross-section;
 - dividing the wooden member original into two segments by a plane which passes along a length direction through a substantial center of the cross-section;
 - forming, at a divided face of each of the two segments, a channel which extends along the length direction;
 - chamfering corner portions of the wooden member original along the length direction such that said cross-section is polygonal, wherein said chamfering step for constraining constrains thicknesses of the wooden member original to within a predetermined range such that in the cross-section, a thickness dimension of a largest portion is at most 1.85 times a

thickness dimension of a smallest portion for avoiding breakage of the wooden member during a compression deforming step; and

pressing and joining the two segments such that the divided faces are matched up.

12. (Original) The wooden member fabrication method of claim 11, further comprising the step of, before the step of pressing the two segments, disposing a core in the channel of one of the segments.

13. (Original) The wooden member fabrication method of claim 11, wherein in the cross-section, angles at portions which are chamfered are at least 120° and at most 150°.

14. (Cancelled)

15. (Original) The wooden member fabrication method of claim 11, wherein the wooden member original includes a curve in the length direction.

16. (Original) The wooden member fabrication method of claim 11, wherein the wooden member is to be used for covering a steering wheel of a vehicle.

17. (Original) The wooden member fabrication method of claim 11, wherein the thicknesses are defined by dimensions of thickness of the wooden member original along straight lines from a substantial center of the cross-section toward any location at the outer periphery of the cross-section.

18. (Currently Amended) A method for fabricating a wooden member for covering a vehicle steering wheel, the method comprising the sequential steps of:

providing a wooden member original with a long form and including a hole inside ~~thereinside~~ which extends in a length direction, the wooden member including a cross-section perpendicular to the length direction which is substantially a rectangle ~~of which corner portions have been chamfered, chamfering corner portions of said rectangular cross-section~~

such that in cross-section, a thickness dimension of a largest portion is at most 1.85 times a thickness dimension of a smallest portion for avoiding breakage of the wooden member during a compression deforming step, wherein the thicknesses are defined by dimensions of thickness of the wooden member original along straight lines from a substantial center of the cross-section toward any location at the outer periphery of the cross-section, and wherein the angles at portions which are chamfered are at least 120° and at most 150°; and

compression-deforming the wooden member original in directions toward a center of the cross-section, for making an outer periphery of the wooden member original an arcuate surface.

19. (Cancelled)

20. (Original) The fabrication method of claim 18, wherein the wooden member original is structured by two segments which are divided by a plane along the length direction, a channel being formed at the plane of division of each segment, which channel extends in the length direction, for forming the hole.